



Hon Lawrence Springborg MP
Minister for Health

21 JUN 2013

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 2119-13, tabled in Parliament on 22 May 2013, in relation to support for people with mental illness and addictions.

The Queensland Government is committed to mental health reform as a state priority. The Blueprint for Better Healthcare in Queensland commits to a more integrated, evidence-based, recovery-oriented mental health, alcohol and other drugs system of support and treatment.

The Queensland Department of Health has developed state-wide models of service to facilitate the provision of a range of therapeutic interventions, such as those requested by the petitioners. These models of service provide clear advice about how clinical mental health services should be delivered. Community care teams provide a range of evidence-based biopsychosocial interventions, including counselling, to reduce the severity of symptoms and increase resilience to cope with mental health problems. The Queensland Government also funds a number of not-for-profit organisations to provide non-clinical support services to support the recovery process.

In response to the request from the petitioners for specialist residential programs, I am pleased to advise that Hospital and Health Services provide a range of extended treatment and rehabilitation services in a residential setting for consumers who require additional support and the development of life skills to successfully transition to independent community living. Community care units (CCU) are currently across six facilities with a total of 124 beds (located in Brisbane, Townsville and on the Sunshine Coast). Eight additional facilities are planned to be built over the next two years in Logan, West Moreton, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Cairns, bringing the total number of CCU beds to 277. An additional 152 beds are available in extended treatment and rehabilitation units located at Robina and Baillie Henderson Hospitals, The Park – Centre for Mental Health, and in Charters Towers.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

LAWRENCE SPRINGBORG MP
Minister for Health